

# Mo Stewart

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Mr Justin Tomlinson MP  
Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Ministerial Correspondence  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London, SW1H 9DA

REF:

Dear Mr Tomlinson

Re: The Preventable Harm Project  
2009 - 2019

Further to your reply to my MP Stephen Barclay of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019, regarding the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), please be advised that the Preventable Harm Project was completed in November 2019 following ten years of independent research, and the final project report, '*Influences and Consequences*'<sup>1</sup> was published online by the Centre for Welfare Reform demonstrating a public health crisis created by social policy reforms.

Furthermore, I am a retired healthcare professional and I write in my capacity as the lead independent researcher in the UK regarding the preventable harm created by the adoption of the WCA, and my published research<sup>2</sup> is welcomed by academics. I would therefore appreciate it if you resisted the temptation to dismiss the past ten years of my work. Only government Ministers attempt to dismiss my research, Mr Tomlinson, which has enjoyed critical acclaim by academics in the UK and in the wider world.

Your failure to acknowledge the fact that both '*The Scientific and Conceptual Basis of Incapacity Benefits*'<sup>3</sup> and '*Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work*',<sup>4</sup> as used by the DWP to justify the adoption of the WCA and the welfare reforms, have failed all academic scrutiny<sup>5,6</sup> is not unexpected but is unacceptable. Therefore, Mr Tomlinson, the Department's '*position on the Work Capability Assessment*', as you referred to in your reply to Stephen Barclay, is unacceptable because the WCA was designed to resist funding as many chronically ill and disabled people as possible when influenced and, indeed, '*guided*' by the second worst insurance company in America since 1992. I suggest this is nothing to celebrate as some claimants were always destined to die when, quite literally, '*killed by the state*'.<sup>7,8</sup>

'WCA processes could arguably be viewed as democide, as some claimants are, in essence, [killed by the state](#) or officials acting on their behalf (Totten and Bartrop, 2008). This means that Maximus are also culpable because they are acting according to DWP policy which is proven to cause death with the approval of state officials. These deaths therefore can be considered democide as the government is purposely permitting and/or creating conditions which systematically produce death.

Moreover, WCA features share many genocidal traits: Targetted groups, like the ill and disabled, suffer gross mental and physical harm. The state have also inflicted physical destitution on a group which fails to align with their ideology (Simon, 2007; Neressian, 2010). When WCAs are conceptualised with the language of *democide* and *genocide*, it fashions new lenses to view contemporary arrangements... This is why the state establish proxy measures – to distance themselves from the harmful consequences of WCAs, as the state is as intimately linked to harm production via Maximus.<sup>7</sup> (p30) (My emphasis, MS)

Given that, as noted by her evidence to the Work and Pensions Select Committee,<sup>9</sup> the Secretary of State demonstrated her inadequate knowledge of reality, and has clearly not accessed the very detailed and disturbing published academic evidence demonstrating the preventable harm created by the Department, I humbly suggest you alert the Secretary of State to the evidence so that you both may begin to become much better informed.<sup>10,11</sup>

I also humbly suggest that your colleagues in the Department, and the Department of Health, should be much better acquainted with the published evidence demonstrating that the WCA was always destined to cause Preventable Harm to many, given that the WCA was adopted for ideological purposes when influenced by corporate America.<sup>12</sup>

There is no justification for the use of the fatally flawed WCA Mr Tomlinson. There is no evidence that terrorising those in greatest need has increased the numbers of disabled people returning to work, and let's not forget that a previous DWP Secretary of State felt the need to lie<sup>13</sup> to justify these dangerous 'welfare reform' policies. He was rewarded with a knighthood for his deception.<sup>14</sup>

It's time the government identified the serious flaws with the WCA Mr Tomlinson, before more people die when '*killed by the state*'.<sup>7,8</sup> It's also time to end £multi-million contracts for unaccountable corporate giants who terrorise those in greatest need on behalf of the DWP,<sup>15</sup> and its certainly time to stop starving people to death when too ill to work<sup>16</sup> in C21st UK.

Yours sincerely

Mo Stewart  
Independent Disability Studies Researcher  
Author of '*Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state*'.  
New Generation Publishing 2016  
<https://www.mostewartresearch.co.uk>  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mo\\_Stewart/publications](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mo_Stewart/publications)

Enclosed:

Preventable Harm: creating a mental health crisis  
*Journal of Public Mental Health*, Vol 18, No 4 2019, pp 224-230

Copied to:

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Work & Pensions Select Committee  
Health & Social Care Committee  
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Catherine Hale  
Stef Benstead  
Roger Jones - Editor, British Journal of General Practice  
John Pring – Editor, Disability News Service  
Steve Preece – Editor, Welfare Weekly  
Mary O’Hara – author and journalist

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